

## The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 22:1-6

Reading: Mark 14:1-11

*Parallel Passages:* Matthew 26:3-16 and Mark 14:1-11

Sermon #91  
September 6, 2020

### The Sovereignty of God and the Sinfulness of Man

In our fallen state as humans, we have two very vital truths to learn and to place into practice as we live our lives in this broken world. My beloved, if we are going to honor God and bring Him glory with our lives, we must grasp these two truths and bring them to weigh on our souls: these two truths are, God is sovereign and man is a sinner. If we grasp these truths, then we recognize God has sovereignty over the universe, all events and all people, we will ascribe glory and honor to His name as the Creator and Sovereign of all. If we understand that man is utterly depraved and helpless before Almighty God, this too brings God glory because God alone saves man from his sin. Two of the biggest dangers we must guard against is to think God is like man and man is like God. It is utter spiritual suicide to our souls to bring God down to human standards and to elevate man to God's position, and that is exactly what we do when we deny God's sovereignty and deny man's sin and utter depravity. As a former Mormon this is one of **many** doctrines that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints got wrong; they believe the following statement of LDS President Snow, which condensed the teaching in the King Follett Discourse, given by founder Joseph Smith in 1844, "**As man now is, God once was: as God now is, man may be.**" They believe in many gods; since the god of the world was once a man and men may become god of their own planet. Also, this immediately tells us that even though they use the name of Jesus Christ in the formal name of their church; they believe in a false Christ that is not of the true God or the Bible. Twisted doctrine is common among the cults. As followers of the biblical Christ we believe God is sovereign, Jesus is the only Christ and the Bible is

the only eternal Word of God. We can believe this because time and history have shown them true and the Bible has proved itself true over the centuries – no other religion can say this – so, our faith is a step of faith but not a blind leap into man-made religions as the rest do.

To prepare for the study of God’s true Word this morning let me begin with prayer.

### **God’s Divine Plan**

I wanted us to lock onto the two truths as we began this morning with; God is sovereign and man is a sinner. As we study this passage, we must accept another truth; **God planned for the death of His Son from before the foundation of the world.** Reading from Luke chapter 22, verses 1 to 6 “[Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. <sup>2</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. <sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. <sup>4</sup> He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup> And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup> So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.](#)” What these evil men schemed; God allowed; Jesus had to die for all mankind.

God has a divine plan that has existed from before the creation of the universe. God’s plan for man’s redemption and salvation has always unfolded just as planned and will continue to unfold as planned until Jesus returns and eternity replaces time and history fulfilling God’s plan. We can also trust every promise God has given, for one reason, because of the promises already fulfilled. Also, we live in a linear time of history; however, God exists outside of time, therefore, even the promises God has given that are yet unfulfilled in time and history have been

completed in the realm of eternity. Therefore, God's promises are guaranteed to be fulfilled as His plan for redemption of mankind unfolds exactly as He has deemed. God's plan has always included Jesus as God the Son and it has always included you and me. Jesus was born exactly as God's timetable was planned and so were you and me. As Paul wrote to the Galatians, <sup>4</sup>“**when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,** <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” (Galatians 4:4-7) So, everything is on God's divine timeline and working exactly as God planned in the eternal past and unfolding exactly as He decreed as we move toward eternity future. Jesus as both man and God fulfilled the Triune God's plan. In John's Gospel, Jesus declares, <sup>28</sup>“**When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.** <sup>29</sup>And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” (John 8:28-29) Jesus and the Father are One. In chapter 17, Jesus raises His eyes towards heaven and says, “**Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,** <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, **Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.**” (John 17:1-5) Jesus entered and exited the world by God's timetable for the glory of God and the salvation of mankind.

Through the Word of God, we understand it was God the Father working to carry out the crucifixion. In John's revelation we read, <sup>8</sup>“**all who dwell on earth will**

worship it (*the world and its evil prince*), everyone whose name has **not** been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.” (Revelation 13:8) The names of the saved were written before the foundation of the world. When asked about living in the broken world, Paul answered, <sup>31</sup> “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32) God gives the saved Himself as the Holy Spirit and when we surrender to the Holy Spirit within, as my grandfather would say, we have everything we need “come hell or highwater”; just like Stephen before the priests as they murdered him.

It is important that we understand that Satan was not and is not in charge. God was fully in charge and orchestrating His divine plan to save mankind through the death of His Son. Many men had schemed and tried to kill Jesus up to this point and all were unsuccessful because it was **not** God’s appointed time. As an example, not only of Herod’s evil attempt to murder the Son of God, but how hard it is to pronounce name found in the Bible, <sup>16</sup> “Then Herod (*hay-ro-dace*), when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem (*bayth-leh-em*) and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah (*ler-e-mi-as*): <sup>18</sup> ‘A voice was heard in Ramah (*hram-ah*), weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel (*hrakh-ale*) weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.’ ” (Matthew 2:16-18) This is the fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:15. God has a divine timetable and no one, neither Satan or any human under his evil influence can thwart it. Jesus talked about God’s appointed time for His crucifixion, there are many, I will give you 5 out of John’s gospel account. Jesus said to His mother at the wedding in Cana, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? **My hour has not**

**yet come.**” (John 2:4) The Jewish leaders “were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because **his hour had not yet come.**” (John 7:30) A little later in John chapter 8, <sup>20</sup> “These words *Jesus* spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because **his hour had not yet come.**” Later in John’s account Jesus transitions to saying, <sup>23</sup> “**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.** <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:23-24) Jesus knew that Judas was ready to betray Him and John writes of this, “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that **his hour had come** to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” (John 13:1) Jesus knowing the hour had arrived and His arrest was intimate and this would be followed by an illegal trial, mocking and His crucifixion, “When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; **glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,** <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, **to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.** <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, **that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.’ ”** (John 17:1-3) I chose these verses for you to understand that the death of our Lord did not just happen and nor was God reacting to events nor was it in Satan’s power to control events – Jesus’ death was decreed by God before the world began. Before Adam and Eve were ever created and ever sinned, the Trinity had already planned to send the Son of God to be crucified. God had a plan. Jesus had a divine hour set in history to be murdered. His death was the final sacrifice that would atone for the sins of mankind.

God’s plan also allowed Satan and his evil religious leaders to have a divine timetable as Luke recorded later in chapter 22, when they came to arrest Jesus and Judas betrayed Him with a kiss, Jesus says to the crowd, “**Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?** <sup>53</sup> When I was with you day after day in the

temple, you did not lay hands on me. **But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**” (Luke 22:52-53) Satan thought he could change the outcome, but was eternally wrong.

This quick summary of verses demonstrates God was orchestrating His divine plan and He had set up human instruments, allowing them to act on the condition of their hearts to do His bidding. At this same time men were scheming and we need to understand 2 things; first, these men were allowed their evil efforts because these efforts served God’s divine plan and second, their evil schemes and efforts also served their true master; Satan. Satan thought he could change the outcome and rob God of glory, but he was so very wrong.

### **Man’s Sinful Plan**

Reading again, verses 2 to 6 we observe men’s sinful and evil efforts, <sup>2</sup>“the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. <sup>3</sup>Then **Satan entered into Judas** called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. <sup>4</sup>He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup>And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.” Jerusalem, at the time of Jesus, had a population of about 600 thousand, but during the Passover, the population of the Holy City swelled to unbelievable numbers. Estimates where about 2 million people would be in Jerusalem during Passover. This is the reason that the religious leaders wanted to avoid arresting Jesus inside the city. The city was bursting at the seams with people and national pride ran high and dislike for the Romans also ran high. They wanted to avoid the possibility of some sort of revolt or uprising by those who hated the Romans and those who believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Their concern was that if Rome caught wind of any such disturbance, they would march their armies in and take over the city. Even

though Rome was in charge, the Jews still lived with some level of freedom. These religious leaders feared an uprising. They feared losing their religious freedom and more importantly losing their power. So, everything had to be done in secret behind locked doors and often under the cover of darkness at night, which mirrored the darkness of their hearts.

One such meeting was held at the house of the High Priest, as Matthew wrote, “When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> ‘You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and **plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.** <sup>5</sup> But they said, ‘Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.’ ” (Matthew 26:1-5) Here is the picture given by Matthew and Jesus; the religious leaders had all of Jesus they could take. Their plan was to finally move to murder Him. Do you see the depth of human depravity? Religious leaders, who claim to represent God, are plotting murder of an innocent man who threaten their power base. Those who claim to be spokesmen for God are scheming how to violate God’s 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment, “**You shall not murder**”. (Exodus 20:13) This is sin on many different levels. Even if Jesus was just a man, to plot murder is willful and deliberate sin. However, Jesus is not just a man; He is the Son of God. These evil men were planning the most sinful act ever accomplished by man - the death of Jesus, God’s only begotten Son. God’s plans are absolute, but man’s plans are filled with uncertainty, it appears from Matthew and our Luke’s passage that they were going to wait until after the feast to carry out this great crime, but then they get a knock at their door and there stands a betrayer; <sup>14</sup> “**Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests** <sup>15</sup> and said, ‘What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?’ And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.” (Matthew

26:14-15) Judas stands before these so-called “priests of God” with their evil scheme and asks, “What is Jesus worth to you?” Verse 4 tells us there was some haggling, Judas “conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.” The priests determine the minimum they can pay and offer 30 pieces of silver and the time and place of betrayal is sought. From Judas’ stand point, at this time, he has wasted 3 years of his life following a man that he thought would be the warrior king Messiah that would defeat the Romans. Judas was tired and wanted out - before things turned bad. He wanted compensation for his time wasted and money to carry him through for a while. Now, 30 pieces of silver was about 4 months wages. Judas was willing to settle for cheap; 4 months wages for 3 wasted years. Judas saw nowhere else to get money for he could no longer steal from the money purse of Jesus and the other disciples as we are told in John chapter 12. So, Judas agreed to take the money and verse 5 says the Judas and priests, “were glad, and priests agreed to give him money.” A deal was struck and not only were all satisfied, but both parties were glad. Of course, we know from verse 3, that “Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot” once this was done Judas fully belonged to Satan, but Judas had been moving in that direction for some time. Remember earlier Jesus tells the disciples, “ ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.’ ”<sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.” (John 6:70-71) Two chapters later in John 8, Jesus and the disciples had this exchange, the disciples said to Jesus, “ ‘We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.’ ”<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.’<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.’<sup>44</sup> **You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he



lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.’ ” (John 8:41-44) Once Satan had entered Judas and he controlled him, and Satan influenced the religious leaders, because they were no longer seeking God but their own ambitions and together Judas and the religious leaders were doing what Satan wanted. Satan cannot be everywhere as God can, he is in one place at a time. Satan is specifically involved in the murder of Jesus by possessing Judas. Satan’s demons worked on the priests and by their ambitions they influenced these priests. Remember Judas was one of the 12. This episode is hauntingly similar to what David wrote in Psalms 41 and 55, “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.” (41:9) and “For it is not an enemy who taunts me — then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me — then I could hide from him. <sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend.” (55:12-13) Judas and the religious leaders schemed together to capture Jesus and murder Him, but understand over all was God, and His plan for Jesus to atone for the sins of mankind. I hope this helps you see more clearly the amazing sovereignty of God?

In Matthew 27 we read of Judas <sup>3</sup>“Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, <sup>4</sup>saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ They said, ‘What is that to us? See to it yourself.’ <sup>5</sup> And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.” Matthew seems to be quoting the prophet Zechariah, “they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So, I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.” (Zechariah 11:12-13) Judas is fulfilling Old Testament prophecy. God’s plan is so thorough that He even determined the amount of money Judas and the leaders would agree on.

The bottom line for Judas was that he did not really sell out Jesus, he sold himself, he sold his soul. Four months wages were worth more to Judas than his soul.

## **Man's Depravity**

As we talked about earlier Satan is finite and can only be one place at a time. Verse 3 tells us, **“Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.”** While God allowed Judas to live out his evil actions, it is Judas who is culpable for his actions and it was Judas who was responsible for his actions and accountable for his sins.

Let me take us back to Luke chapter 9 where Jesus feeds the 5000, which is also found in Matthew 14, Mark 6, and John 6. I believe this story reflects on the condition of Judas' heart. In John's account Jesus fed the 5000 and departs to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. The people were looking for Jesus but could not find Him. Why were the people searching for Jesus? Well, Jesus gives us the answer in verse 26, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.”** (John 6:26) The point Jesus is making, is the people were not seeking Him because they loved Him or believed He was the Messiah. They were seeking Him because they had received a free meal and thought there was more Jesus would provide. How does this relate to Judas?

Judas was also following Jesus because he thought, in time, it would pay off; when Jesus became King, he would receive a position of power and money. Judas was like many in the crowds, he was looking for what Jesus would give in the form of food, money and power. But Jesus did not take a physical throne over Israel and rule as an earthly king so Judas felt cheated. Let me ask, what is it you want from Jesus? Why have you become a follower of Jesus? Are you a follower of Christ to live for His glory or are you hoping to get something from Him? The prosperity

Christianity movement is all about what will Jesus give them. This is just what Judas was about. This is just like the people in the crowd that followed Jesus for free meals. Judas, and many throughout history and many today, think life is about material wealth. Judas worshipped wealth instead of God, Judas exchanged worshipping God, the Creator, for worshipping the created. Unfortunately, many make the same mistake. Paul's advice to Timothy seems appropriate at this time, "Godliness with contentment is great gain,<sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.<sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Timothy 6:6-10) My beloved, we need to keep our eyes fixed on the unseen, but eternal God and not the things of this world.

My beloved, let us keep our guard up by focusing on Jesus. The world has nothing to offer us that is **permanent** – notice in the middle of the word "permanent" is "man" and this is the mistake Judas made, he was focused on man, on himself. Here are 4 things Judas believed **permanent** and they brought his destruction.

- 1. Judas believed the physical things of the world were permanent and would provide him with security.** The Bible teaches that the physical things of the world are passing away and they are not eternal. The Apostle John teaches, "the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:17) Paul tells believers "do not lose heart. Though our outer self is **wasting away**, our inner self is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16) Jesus was clear in his instructions to believers,

“Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Luke 12:33-34) Jesus is saying do not worship your excess, do not hoard, but use it for the poor and needy and the work of God’s kingdom and keep your focus on Him and heaven.

- 2. Judas believed the physical things were all there is.** Human depravity and sin tempt us to focus on the here and now and the material things of the world. The trap of Satan is to get people to think happiness will come when we have enough stuff. If we fall for this trap, we spend our energy on amassing more and lose our focus on the spiritual. Jesus taught, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

(Matthew 6:19-20)

- 3. Judas believed success is measured by the amount of material wealth accumulated.** If you have ever desired to become rich or dreamed of winning the lottery, you know the temptation I am speaking of. If either of these happened there is the temptation of money possessing us instead of God. Jesus commented on this temptation, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26) Judas gave his soul for 30 pieces of silver.

- 4. Judas believed meaningful life is found outside of a relationship with God.** Judas believed if he had wealth, it would bring power and power would solve all his problems. This drove him to steal and cheat. Judas’ heart was held by the sin of self-promotion and money was key. He betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. The silver did not solve his problems, for if the money had he would not have hung himself. Judas gave away God for money and now

suffers eternally. I want you to think about this; if Judas could walk and talk with Jesus for 3 years and see miracle after miracle and hear Him teach God's truth and not believe what does this mean for many people today? What does it mean for those we thought were Christian and walked away from Christ? Like Judas they never really believed and they were never indwelt with God's Holy Spirit.

My beloved we all had some Judas in us when God called us to salvation by His grace. Once we were saved our sin nature still wants to hold on to us and we have to do battle with the power of God's Spirit to kill any Judas within us and to slay our sins that we might be dependent on God alone. We must slay our natural desire for money, fame and power that will rob us of our relationship with Jesus. We should not live in fear of Satan for he has no hold over those who surrender themselves to Christ.

Let me remind us of the 3 primary truths I began with; **God is sovereign and man is a sinner**. The third, **God planned for the death of His Son from before the foundation of the world**. We understand God is in charge, not Satan and by God's power we can live victorious lives that brings God the Father and God the Son glory. Let us learn from the sad story of Judas and fully commit our lives to Jesus! Amen!